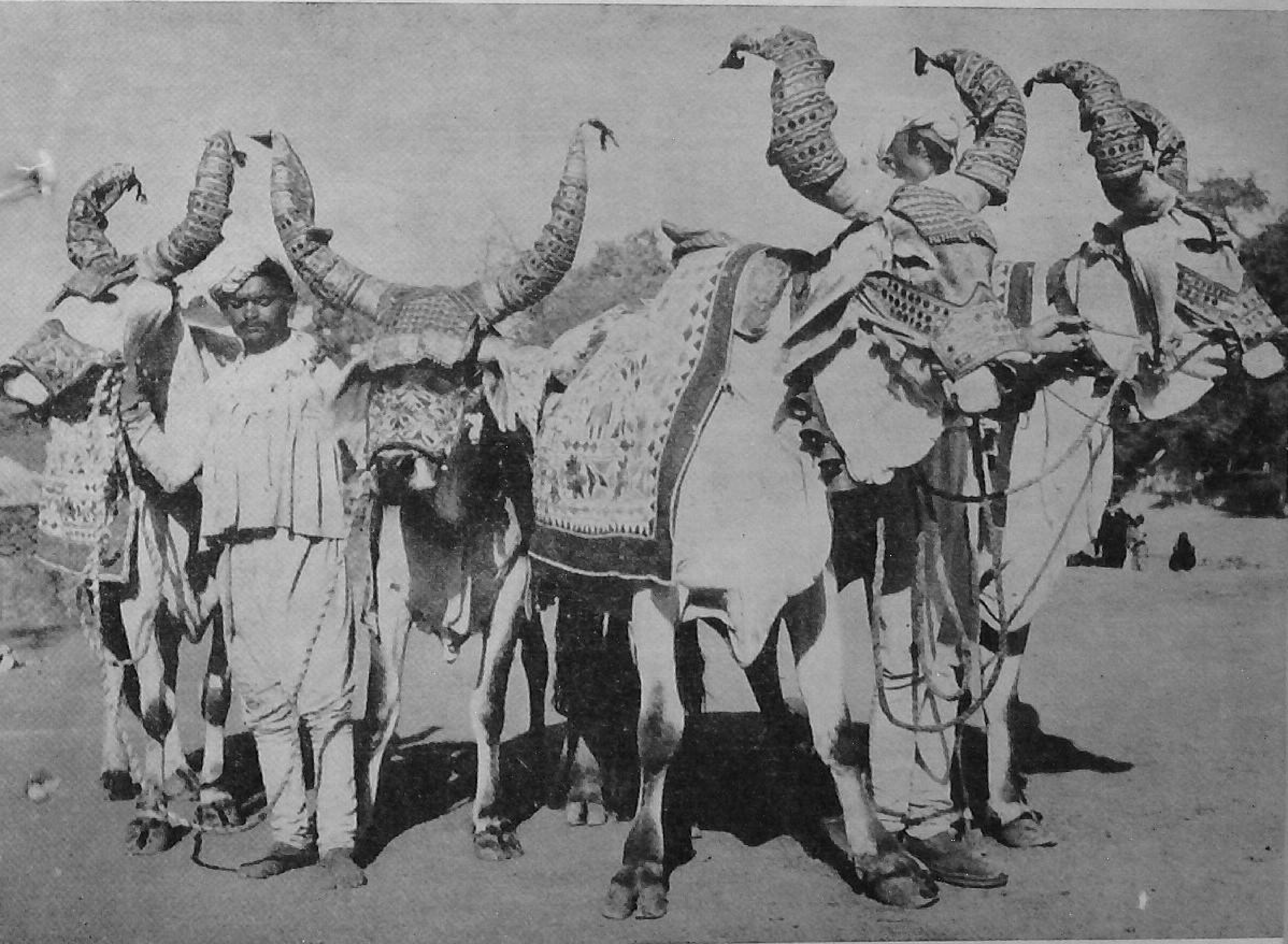
Panchayati Raj

OFFICE OF THE PRINCIPAL, RURAL EXTENSION TRAINING CENTRE
APR 1965
T. KALLUPATTI

MARCH 1965



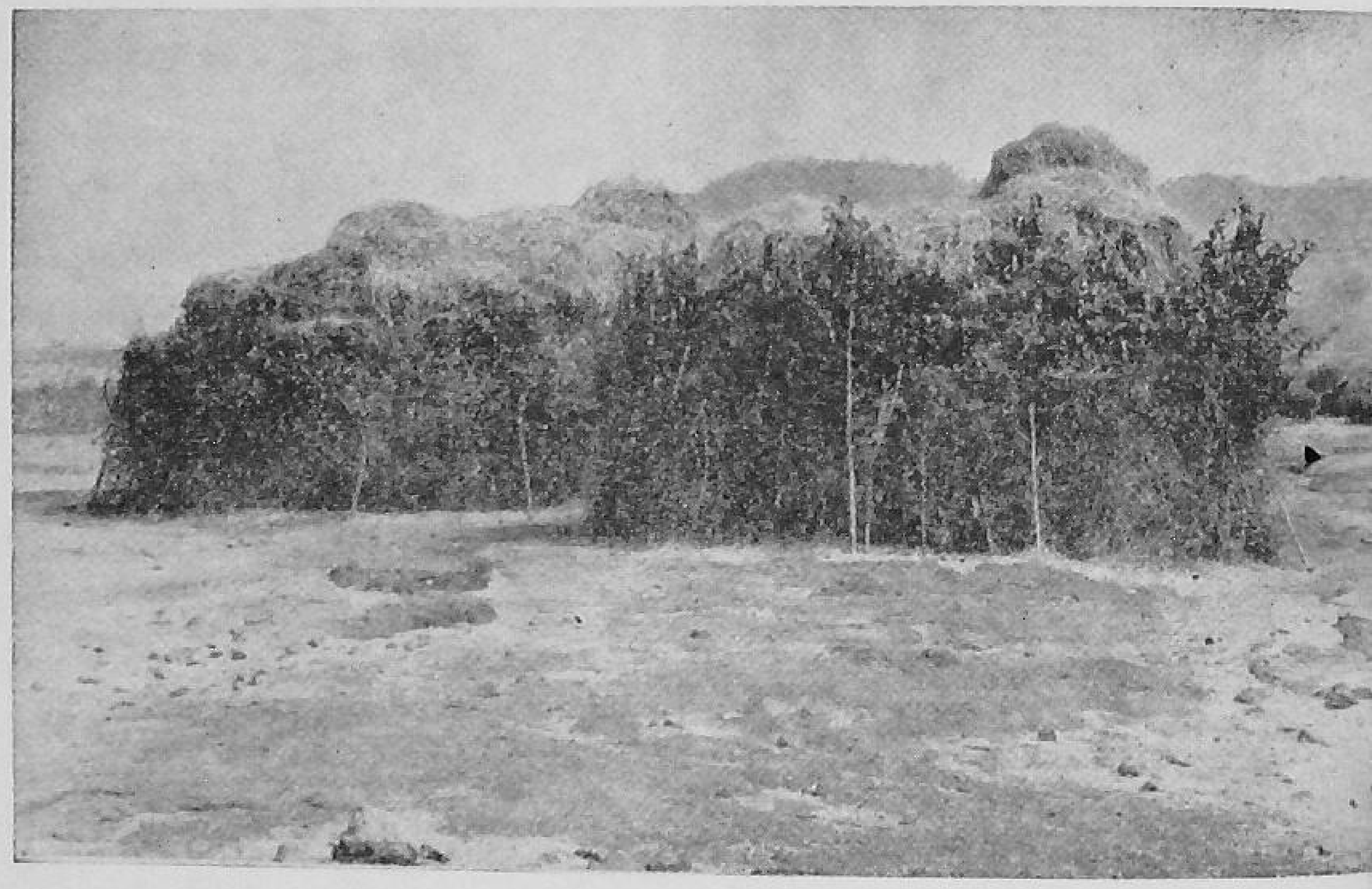
A Sourashtrian villager proudly shows his four high breed bulls. After the introduction of Panchayati Raj the rural people of Gujarat are making rapid progress to prosperity.

(See inside)

1

HAY STACKING

Make hays while the sun shines—that farmers all over the world know. But our farmers know more: They show unique aesthetic sense in stacking hays. The stacks may protect them from scorching rays of the sun and



2

rains as shown in Picture 1, which also presents a Maharashtrian peasant family. Picture 2 and Picture 3 show two different ways of stacking hays beautifully.

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PHALGUNA 1886

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LETTERS

CATCH THEM YOUNG

Sir,

WE ARE told by the Government that Panchayati Raj has been well established in the country. In my humble opinion we have yet to attain Panchayati Raj. We have brought into being what is actually Lok Raj and through it we are marching towards Panchayati Raj. When the majority of the Indian rural people will awaken to their responsibility to future generation and labour hard to usher in a happy and prosperous India, perhaps then we can say with satisfaction that Panchayati Raj has been established in the truest sense of the word.

We will have to inculcate the spirit of cooperation among the younger generation who would be responsible citizens tomorrow and bear the burden of the country. We will have to bring our system of education in schools and colleges in line with the ideals of Panchayati Raj. The gradual growth and development of panchayats and marketing societies in schools and colleges will make our children cooperative and panchayat minded. Only by holding debating competitions or arranging for school radio sets this spirit cannot be roused. We will have to make our students intimately concerned with the practical aspects of Panchayati Raj movement. Only by catching them young we can expedite the ushering in of Panchayati Raj.

25-1-65
Chenani Block,
Jammu & Kashmir State.

Yours etc.,
Mansa Ram
Block Development Officer

FREEDOM FROM HUNGER

Sir,

IN SPITE of various means and devices adopted to ensure freedom from hunger and in spite of several hundreds or thousands types of food that man has evolved since time immemorial, the struggle for this freedom still persists. While the world food consumption level has improved over the last decade, half the world's population is still going hungry. Hunger, however, does not necessarily mean starvation. Undernutrition and malnutrition are two other types of hunger. It is a pity that in many countries both undernutrition and malnutrition persist. While many people die for want of food, many others suffer ill-health due to imbalance of it. Both types of hunger lead to lack of energy and efficiency, ill-health and in some cases, to disease and death. One of the commonest causes of preventible blindness among children in India is hunger. Anaemia, retarded growth, enlarged liver, are also results of hunger.

It is within the capacity of every individual to remove this want. As citizens of a free country it is our duty to fight this battle against hunger.

The farmer of course has the biggest role to play. He should fight this battle by increasing crop yields. He must adopt improved methods of cultivation. It would be advisable to grow vegetables along with crops.

(*Continued on page 4*)

PANCHAYATS KINDLE NEW HOPE AMONG PEOPLE

M. P. DAIYA

"WILL THEY be able to deliver the goods?"

This is one important question with regard to the future of village panchayats which agitated the minds of many persons when the idea of Panchayati Raj was first mooted. Delegation of important functions and powers to local leadership when administration even at higher tiers finds it difficult to achieve the desired measure of popular satisfaction appeared somewhat difficult to put up with. Not only the leaders at the top level, but people who were to be the direct beneficiaries of a scheme that was to solve their problems at their doorsteps, also felt doubtful about the results.

Performance could be the only answer to such a sceptic mind. While it may be premature to assert the full success of democratic decentralisation, there is evidence of a happy augury for the future. A party of eminent writers and journalists of Gujarat State had a refreshing experience when it visited a taluka panchayat to have an on-the-spot study of the working of the Panchayati Raj.

"By the way, would you tell us something of your personal experience about the working of the panchayat scheme in your taluka ?"—a question was put to the sarpanch who welcomed the visitors.

With a mixture of feelings writ on his face, the sarpanch, in a note remarkable for its sincerity and candour, made a clean breast of what he saw and felt. "Nothing spectacular could of course be expected in a comparatively backward district with a predominantly conservative people. One refreshing thing, however, is the general feeling that local problems are getting speedily solved at the local level," he said.

The sarpanch said with enthusiasm that one good advantage of this feeling had been to win over people to causes for which a lot of persuation was needed formerly. Today, it was no longer difficult to plead with people to give their share of cost of the development works. Thus many a suspended public work had been resumed; people who refused to avail themselves of irrigation from tubewells were now ready to go in for them, teachers observed better regularity at schools and so on. The value of a sense of such conscious cooperation kindled among the people could hardly be over emphasised.

The chairmen of various committees of the panchayat also attend the panchayat office on a prefixed day of the week to solve problems in their respective spheres. A blackboard hanging on the panchayat office wall announced particular days in the week fixed for the visit of these chairmen. This has helped to avoid unnecessary visits to taluka office by villagers and to come only on specific days for solution of their problems.

Apart from attending to complaints or grievances, positive measures have also been initiated to promote village development. Five villages have been selected for special development in the taluka. Gram Sabhas have been held at these villages where the Extension Officers have elaborately explained activities that could be undertaken to make the village a model one.

Another activity which impressed the writers and journalists in Mehsana district was the working of tubewells. One good result of this subsidised scheme is that it has made cultivation of rabi crops possible in a district whose only hope lay in annual rainfall formerly.

A tubewell normally irrigates 150 to 175 acres of land and taking the average yield of wheat per acre at 25 Bengal maunds, the total production in the area served would be 3,750 to 4,375 Bengal maunds. At the rate of Rs. 20 per maund, this would fetch an income of Rs. 75,000 to 80,000. There are at present 40 Government aided tubewells in the taluka and these have helped to add to the income of agriculturists by about Rs. 30 to 32 lakhs annually.

At a small reception held by the village people at one of the tubewells where the party was given a real taste of India's traditional hospitality, it was stated that the tubewell had improved the lot of the agriculturists in the command area of the well and they were actually producing foodgrains worth Rs. 80,000. The value of land had also shot up by about 300 per cent in their area.

The party returned with the strong conviction that the people of Mehsana are moving on the right path towards the goal of prosperity. They would, no doubt, 'deliver goods' and they, like so many fellow-workers all over the country, are on a holy pilgrimage towards a better tomorrow.

Ram Narain examining the single seed

MILLIONS FROM ONE

A Miracle by Ram Narain

MANOHAR PRABHAKAR

ONCE UPON a time there lived a king who had.... Thus the tale generally starts and we are told of all sorts of fantastic incidents. But fact is sometimes stranger than fiction. Miracles take place even now. Present-day miracles, however, are not caused by kings but by ordinary men, peasants like Ram Narain of village Dugari in Bundi district of Rajasthan.

Ram Narain is a potter by birth. He has a small piece of cultivable land. Ram Narain is a simple man—an ordinary man like so many of his fellow-men. Nobody ever thought that he would become a hero and show his fellow-men the path to prosperity.

But the miracle did happen. About ten years ago a fair of 'Tejaji' was held at Ram Narain's village. Like other villagers Ram Narain also had gone to the fair. There was gay abundance all around. Men and women in colourful dress collected near merry-go-round and other attractions of the fair. But Ram Narain's eyes fell on the agricultural show, put up by the State Agricultural Department. He was fascinated by the improved implements and other things displayed at the stall. There was also a bag full of fine Malwi wheat.

Ram Narain approached the official who was explaining the utility of improved implements, seeds, etc.

"Do you only demonstrate or also distribute seeds to the people ?" he asked the official.

"If I start distributing seeds free, hundreds of such bags will be emptied in no time," was the reply.

"I do not want even a single grain as a gift or donation," said Ram Narain, "you may charge whatever price you like but I must have a few grains."

The official stared at him. It was an honest face. But the official wanted to be sure. "Sorry, you cannot have even a single grain," he said.

Ram Narain got annoyed at first. He cursed the official and left the stall.

But Ram Narain could not forget that improved seed. He became restless. He must have a few grains and see the result of sowing improved seeds.

On the fifth day he was seen entering the stall of the State Agricultural Department with a few friends.

The same official greeted him with a smile. "You have come for the seed, I suppose," he said, "but what will you do with that ? I am sure you would not be able to grow them."

"You are wrong," replied Ram Narain.

The official collected detailed information about Ram Narain from his friends, who were with him.

"Here you are," he said at last, "a gift from the Government."

It was a single grain. Ram Narain took it and thanked the official. He rushed straight to the field. Well, where to sow it! He looked around. He must take care. He had taken up a challenge. He would show the official and his friends what he can do with a single grain.

Finally the place under a cane-apple tree was selected. He dug a few inches of land, put manures in the soil and sowed the seed. Every morning Ram Narain watched. After a few days the seed sprouted and grew gradually into a plant. He watered it well every fortnight and in due course of time the plant was heavy with 31 ears of wheat. The harvest yielded him six chhataks of wheat of very high quality. He preserved them carefully.

Next year he sowed all the seeds. This time Ram Narain used chemical fertilizers to have quick results. Watering was done every fortnight. Within four months and a half the plants were about six feet high. Other farmers often used to come to see the miracular growth. Some of them requested Ram Narain for a few seeds. But no, Ram Narain would not part with even a single one. This year he got over five seers of wheat. Ram Narain was convinced that improved seeds were capable of doing wonders. But he wanted to see further.

The third year he adopted better methods of plant care. The result a little over one maund and a half of wheat. Yes, now he could help other cultivators. He distributed the seeds but kept about 30 seers of them for his own use. He did not have a big land —just a small plot. In about a bigha of land he sowed 30 seers of seed. The yield was more than 19 maunds.

Ram Narain's mission was fulfilled. His fame was spread far and wide. The farmers of neighbouring villages came to him for seeds. He distributed them liberally. Sixteen cultivators hailing from twelve different villages got the gift of seeds from Ram Narain.

Thus Ram Narain made a miracle with a single seed which is now multiplying into millions.

LETTERS

(*Continued from page* 1)

All waters available in one's area should be stocked with good, fast-growing, tasty fish. Every water-spread in the village should be converted into a fish farm. There are plenty of waters in our country where fish can be raised—back waters, lagoons, swamps, lakes, jheels, reservoirs, tanks, ponds and even paddy plots. With such resources we can easily increase our fish production ten times.

Then we have to plant more trees for fruits, for fuel, for manure and to protect our farm soil from erosion. Few countries can grow as many varieties of fruit trees as India can. Fruits offer minerals and vitamins in a tasty way.

Attention should also be given to milch animals and poultry. Egg is a wholesome and concentrated food. An egg a day is an easy way of keeping up our health. Any family can have one cow at least and a few birds.

A city dweller can easily raise a small kitchen garden. He can grow them even in pots if he does not have any open ground. Chilli and tomatoes come up well in pots. He can also keep some poultry in the backyard.

A teacher has a wide field to extend his help for this freedom from hunger campaign. He can teach his pupils the food value of each item of food. Through lessons, games dramas and many other school activities he can impart knowledge about food to his pupils.

A student should take part in small projects in vegetable cultivation, poultry keeping, bee keeping, etc. He should have at least one pet animal like the goat, pig or cow, at home. During his holidays he may visit some villages and help the farmers in their cultivation.

So all of us as citizens have to give our full co-operation to the Government to free the country from hunger. We should break down food prejudices and taboos. Food is not merely what we are accustomed to eat but also that which provides us nutrition and keeps us healthy. Food tastes are not inborn, they are to be acquired. We should not depend entirely on one type of food but include a number of them. We should include nutritious items like groundnuts, sweet potatoes, etc., in our food.

Lot of food is wasted during feasts, at tea houses, hotels, etc. Everyone of us should understand that it is a sin to do so.

24-1-65

Directorate of Extension,
Ministry of Agriculture,
NEW DELHI.

Yours etc.,
(*Miss*) *M. E. Mundkur*
Sub-Editor
Farm Information Unit

CHINHAT TAKES UP CHALLENGE

Prosperity Through Agro-Industries

DR. RAM DAS

PANCHAYATS are being formed all over the country. With democratic decentralization and the growing sense of responsibility among the rural people the spread of panchayats is inevitable. But how many of them are economically sound? How many of them are capable of carrying out on their own various civic and development activities. Instances are not lacking of many of the panchayats during the course of their existence for about a decade have not been able to mobilise their resources to the desired extent.

It is happening all over India. In Uttar Pradesh, however, efforts are being made to vitalise panchayats to turn them into dynamic organisations. The first experiment in this respect has been made at Chinhat and its adjoining four villages. Chinhat is situated at Chinhat block of Lucknow district and the four villages are within a radius of two miles and a half of it.

Before a pilot project was undertaken to change the face of Chinhat, it was lingering in a very miserable state of affairs. Assessed taxes were not paid by the individuals and hardly any community works were initiated or completed in these villages. The Director, Panchayat Raj, in one of his casual observations during 1959 remarked that if the Panchayats of Chinhat and the adjoining villages could be activised, perhaps all the panchayats in the State of Uttar Pradesh could be strengthened on the same pattern. This was a challenge which needed thinking, programme planning, execution and evolving sound techniques of education which could normally be applied all over the State.

THE PILOT PROJECT

In the year 1959, the Planning Research and Action Institute, U.P., took up a pilot project on village panchayats with a view to evolving methods and techniques by means of which the village panchayats could be activised to play a more effective role in the development of rural areas. Consequent upon this, a programme of *Panchayat Member Education* was formulated, pretested and then launched in five villages, *viz.* Chinhat, Ismailganj, Matiari, Uttar Dhauna and Malhaur.

To start with, a Joint Committee of these five village panchayats was formed which included the Pradhan of each village panchayat, the Headmaster of Primary School, the Sarpanch of the village co-operatives and the leaders of the Yuvak Mangal Dal. All the educational programmes concerning this project were put up before the Joint Committee for discussion and for inviting their opinions.

In one of the meetings the members of the Joint Committee expressed an opinion that some kind of economic programme should be taken up through the joint efforts of the village panchayats of the project areas so that the resources of the panchayats may improve with the help of which some community works may be completed. And thus the idea of starting a Panchayat Udyog (Industrial Centre) was born.

PANCHAYAT UDYOG

It was agreed that Panchayat Udyog Centre should be established at Chinhat in which the manufacture of P.R.A.I. type latrine moulds and latrine seats should be undertaken. The main hurdle in the establishment of the Udyog was that there were no funds with the village Panchayats. To overcome this difficulty each village panchayat was granted a loan of Rs. 500 from the District Gaon Fund with the approval of the Director, Panchayat Raj. Village panchayat, Ismailganj, contributed an additional amount of Rs. 300 out of its own resources. Thus, the Panchayat Udyog came into being on September 16, 1960

Manufacture of Persian wheels

Taking latrine pan out of a mould

with an initial capital of Rs. 2,800 with the object of asset building programmes, undertaking industrial programmes and creating employment avenues in villages.

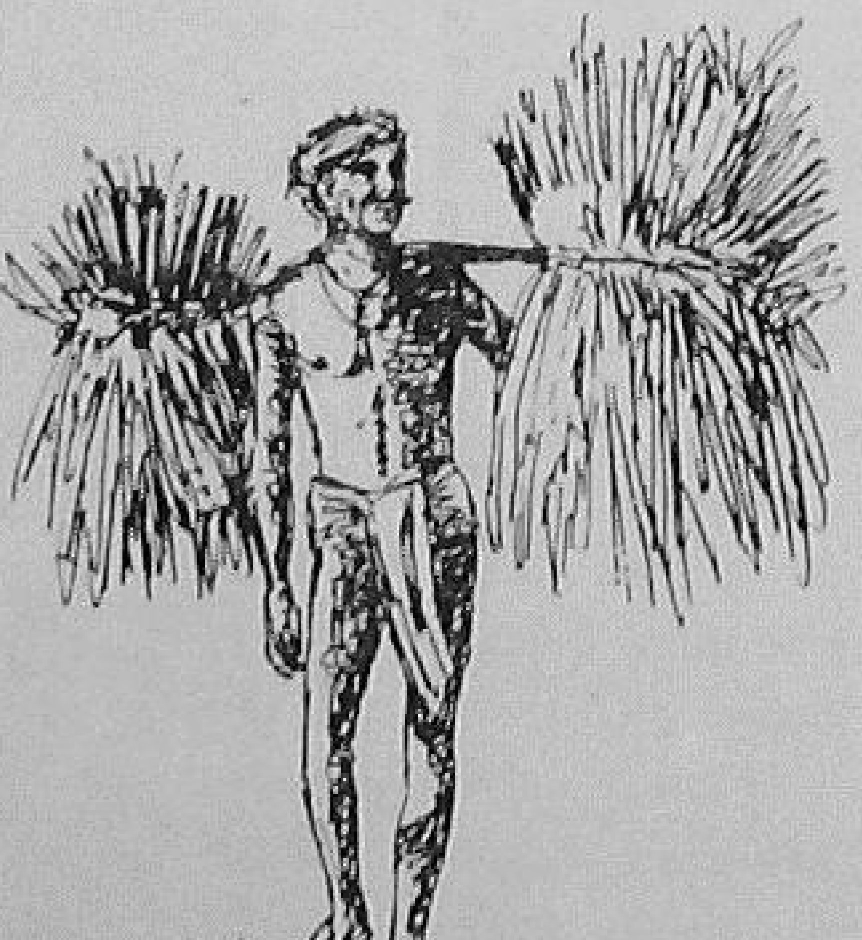
The Udyog Centre was started in a hired thatched kachcha building on a rent of Rs. 12 per month. During a short span of two years and a half the Centre has produced articles worth about Rs. 1,70,000 and out of which goods worth Rs. 1,65,000 were sold to individuals and blocks within and outside the State. The Udyog has by now a working capital of more than Rs. 50,000 of its own. Its present employment potential has increased to 50 as against 3 in the initial stages.

The main items of production of the Panchayat Udyog Centre are P.R.A.I. type latrine, latrine parts, moulds, cement goods, *i.e.* ventilators, drainage pipes, fencing poles, flower-pots, *chaklas,* Persian wheels and other water lifts, agricultural implements, moulds for the construction of PRAI type-ring-wells, and garments. Chikan work is also undertaken at this Centre.

The Joint Committee consisting of a representative from each Panchayat has been looking after the working of the Centre. This Committee meets every month. The accounts of the Udyog Centre are put up before the Committee for examination and approval. The members of the Joint Commitee go through the details of the working of the Udyog activities and advise on its future working. The Panchayat Udyog has now its own staff and technical guidance is provided by Planning Research and Action Institute.

The experiences of working of Panchayat Udyog Centre, Chinhat, have been very rewarding indeed. Chinhat has proved that even with limited resources the panchayats can be effective institutions for delivering the goods provided the members of the village panchayats fully understand and are prepared to shoulder the responsibilities entrusted to them in the process of the democratic decentralization in our present-day economy. If the members are alive to the new challenge thrown on them and have the necessary understanding and requisite courage to fulfil their obligations, which may be possible by imparting member education lessons followed by dynamic group discussions, the present institutions can bring new hope, new life and new understanding in the village masses.

The entire edifice of democracy has to be built up on a very sound foundation and that foundation is the Gram Sabha and the village Panchayat. These institutions have, therefore, to be strengthened educationally, financially and culturally so that even in the days of great upheaval they may maintain their solidarity and effectiveness and thus serve as main pillars for the effective working of the democratic institutions in our country.



WATER FOR PARCHED LAND

gannavaram panchayat samiti's main task

K. NAGABHUSHANA REDDY

NEARLY half of the cultivable area was parched. It depended only on rain god for quenching its thirst. The cultivators who owned them always blamed their fate for not being able to get enough from the soil to live on. Miserable poverty was written on the faces of most of the people.

This was the gloomy picture presented by the whole region before Gannavaram Panchayat Samiti came into being by the end of 1959. The Samiti, which is named after a small town Gannavaram in Krishna District of Andhra Pradesh, has at present 34 Panchayats with a total population of 68,873.

In six years the Samiti has turned the tale of woes and miseries into that of smiling happiness. The ripe crop while swaying in the mild breeze smiles. There are smiles on the lips of peasants too. No more they look up and pray for the mercy of rain god. They have now full confidence in their own selves and things are moving fast.

When the Samiti was constituted it had under its control about 56,000 acres of cultivable land. Out of this 18,000 acres are in a delta and naturally well irrigated, 15,000 acres of land are irrigated by tanks and the remaining 23,000 acres depended entirely on rains.

The Samiti rightly realised that to increase the income of the peasants there was no other alternative but to bring water to the parched 23,000 acres. A master plan was prepared under the guidance of Dr. C. L. Rayudu, the young President of the Samiti. The plan provided for lift irrigation, construction of dams across the streams, repairing of abandoned tanks, building of aqueducts and digging of bore wells.

THE PROGRESS

Once the community was on the move it was found that the problem was not at all insoluble. For lift irrigation four schemes were chalked out which when completed would bring water to 6,842 acres. At Kesarapalli and Apparaopet the successful implementation of two lift irrigation schemes have turned nearly 1,500 acres of barren land into smiling green. The most notable lift irrigation scheme is Gollapudi pumping scheme, which is estimated to cost about Rs. 10 lakhs.

Ten villages from Kesarapalli to Pottipadu have been benefited by bore wells. Nearly 200 bore wells have been sunk. The State Government sanctioned loans for sinking bore wells and purchase of electric motor pump sets. The land that had once gone waste now yields paddy, sugarcane, vegetables, etc. and the average income of the peasant has shot up from Rs. 10 to Rs. 600 per acre.

The people have also undertaken construction of dams across the streams. The Cheemalavagu and some other streams have been dammed resulting in the irrigation of 770 acres. Three aqueducts—one at Chikkavaram and two at Mustabad—have been constructed at a cost of Rs. 13,000. These have benefited 370 acres of land. About six abandoned tanks have been repaired and water supply has been assured to about 700 acres of land in the villages of Narayapparaopet, Pedavuttapalli, Gannavaram, Patapadu. Veeraonenigudem and Kothagudem.

Simultaneously with bringing water to the thirsty land attempts are also made to free land from submersion in the delta area. Twelve drains were repaired at a cost of Rs. 9,000 and thus freed 1,310 acres of land from water.

Even now about 6,000 acres of land are crying for water. It has been found that only bore wells can remove water scarcity in these regions. The Samiti is now engaged in completing this task.

The remarkable achievement so far has endowed the Samiti with confidence. The day is not too far when there will not be a single acre left without the facilities of irrigation. The poor peasants who had not dreamt of having plenty at home have now found the fulfilment of their age-long desire. They say that they have been blessed with the boon of Panchayati Raj.

Villagers of Gannavaram are seen constructing an aqeduct

resident Dr. Radhakrishnan iving national award to Shri G. Bashyam Sthapathy

Abdul Qadir Rangrez

OUR MASTER

THEY came to the Capital from all over the country. For some, it was their first visit to a city—an exciting adventure. But this was not merely a visit to a vast metropolis, the heart of the Republic. They came as honoured guests of the Government of India—fourteen Master Craftsmen to be honoured by the President for their creative genius. These so far unknown and unsung heroes, whose work kept alive the rich cultural heritage of the nation, had at last found recognition after years of obscurity. On January 25, 1965 the President, Dr. Radhakrishnan presented national awards to these Master Craftsmen selected by the All India Handicrafts Board out of thousands in the country. Each of them received from the hands of the first citizen of the country, a presentation of Rs. 1,000, a *tamrapatram* (brass plaque) and an *angabastram* (shawl of raw silk with Chamba roomal embroidery).

Abdul Qadir Rangrez is the oldest and most experienced Kanishwal weaver in the Kashmir Valley. Maheshi Devi, a peasant woman of Himachal Pradesh, received the award for keeping up the tradition of 'embroidered painting' in the Chamba roomal style. Not only has she practised the art herself but trained a number of women in its intricacies.

Rajanikanta Chitrakar, an artist from West Bengal, not only possesses mastery over the traditional methods of painting popularly known as *pata* but an experienced image maker, modeller of clay toys and ritual pottery. Today he is the sole survivor of the famous Kalighat School of Painting, struggling to avert extinction. Ali Hasan *alias* Kalloo Hafiz of Varanasi has shown his

Artatran Mahapatra

K. L. Salvi

Ali Hasan

Maheshi Devi

Rajanikanta Chitrakar

Fyaz Khan

CRAFTSMEN

talent in weaving silk brocades. Vaithialingam Pathar of Pondicherry has become famous for his extraordinary skill in toy making while Fyaz Khan of Lucknow has come to lime light for keeping up traditional craft of chikan work. The contribution of M. V. Sthapathy of Madras to traditional style sculpture and temple building is great indeed. But unfortunately he died in 1963. His widow received the award. Artatran Mahapatra of Orissa is one of the official priest-painters of the famous Jagannatha temple at Puri. The traditional skill and technique of image-making in pith, clay and tin-foil have survived because of his deep knowledge and understanding of the local rites and ceremonies. Kesavlal Laherchand Salvi of Gujarat has played a great role in maintaining the rich standard of patola weaving. Jagannatha Mahapatra of Orissa like Rajanikanta Chitrakar of West Bengal is another artist who follows the old school of painting. He shows extraordinary skill in painting in the ancient style of the Chitrakars of Orissa. Devalakunda Vadiraj has attained fame as a sandalwood carver. G. Bashyam Sthapathi's field is bronze casting, while Kesavan Appukuttan Achary of Kerala has been awarded for ivory carving. C. Parameshwarachar of Mysore is equally expert in wood carving and temple building.

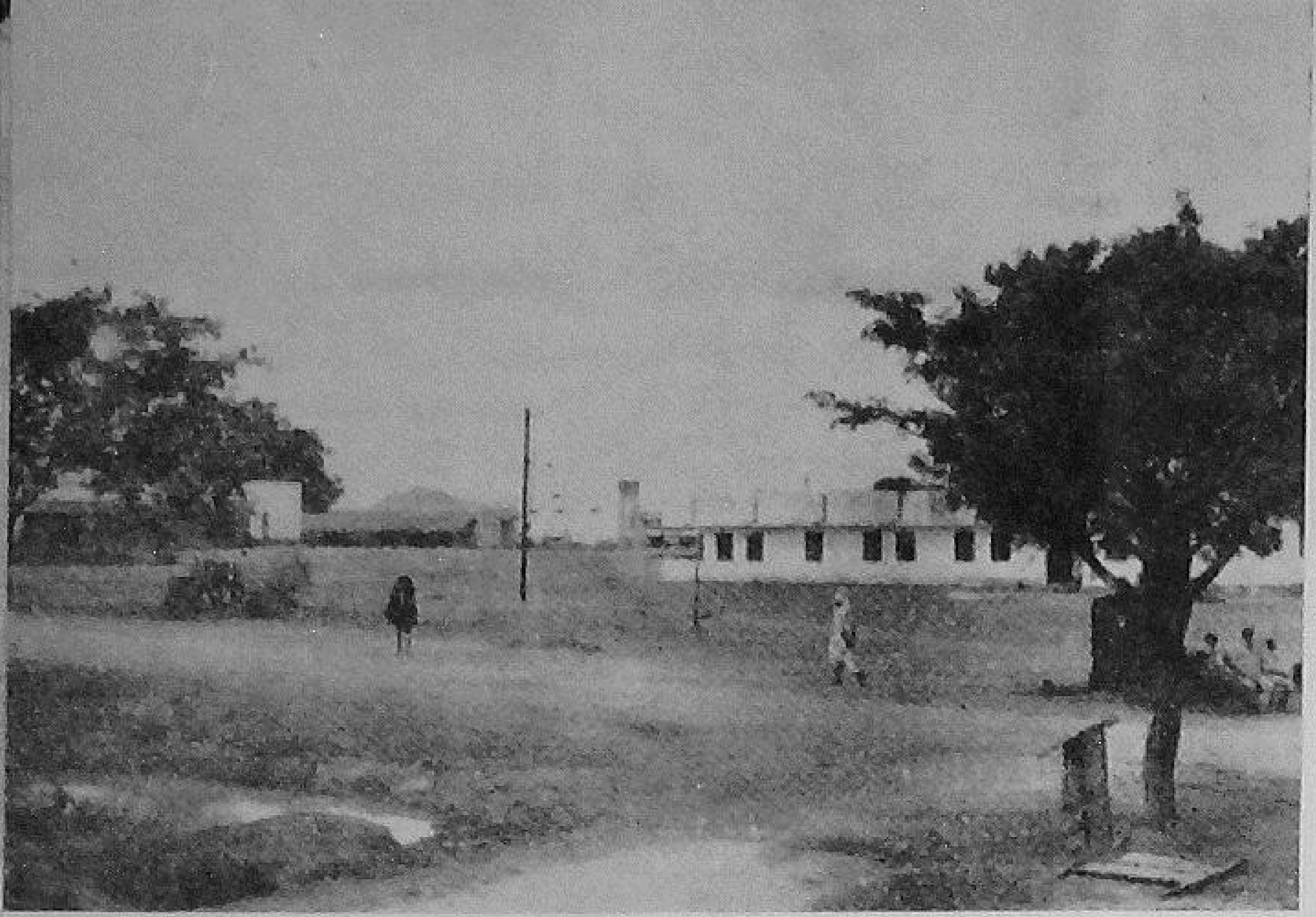
These fourteen craftsmen have been adjudged as best artisans in their respective field. With the course of time the number of master craftsmen in India would undoubtedly go on increasing.

Here we present eleven award winner Master Craftsmen of the year.

Vaithialingam Pathar

Jagannatha Mahapatr

Devalakunda Vadiraj



PALEM : SYMBOL OF SELF-HELP

KROVI RAMA RAU

THIS IS the story of a small village down in the South—a village which suddenly awoke one morning and decided to change its age-long poverty into prosperity. Palem, located in Bijnapalli Panchayat Samiti in the heart of Mahboobnagar district of Andhra Pradesh, had its first Panchayat in 1959 and within three years it was adjudged as the best Panchayat in 1961-62. The State Government awarded a cash prize of Rs. 5,000 to the Panchayat.

Today no one at Palem will like to look back on those horrible days when life was nothing but prolonged misery. The people, mostly cultivators, struggled to eke out bare means of livelihood. There was no school and illiteracy reigned supreme. Palem was a squalid unwholesome place even in the dry season. Its lanes bogged down the bullock cart, its wells got filled with polluted run off water, its mud huts crumbled. Malaria took a heavy toll, the polluted wells spread cholera.

Luckily for Palem, there was a small band of enthusiastic social workers who were determined to put an end to these sufferings. Shri Subramanyam, who led these selfless workers, urged the villagers to take the honest pledge that they would not pass on this miserable life to their inheritors. They must work hard, so that villagers of tomorrow would remember them with gratitude, with respects.

What happened afterwards can be seen at Palem today. The High School, Cosmopolitan Hostel, Primary Health Centre, Science College, Sri Venkateswara Temple, to mention a few, tell the story in concrete of the combined human efforts, of tremendous self-sacrifice, of mass consciousness of responsibility to an India of tomorrow.

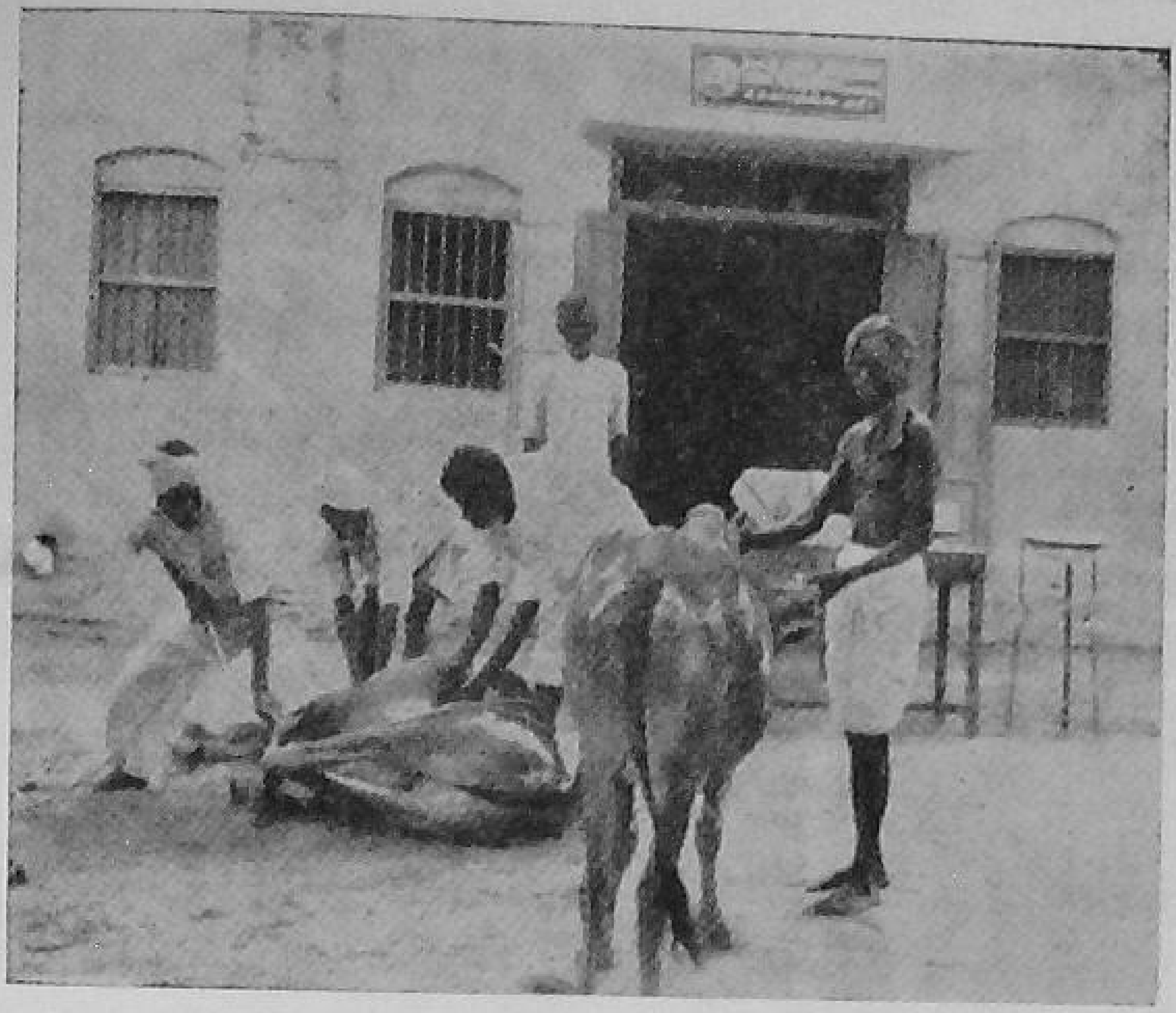
HEALTH CENTRE

In the year 1959, when a proposal came up for the establishment of a primary health centre, the villagers donated Rs. 10,000 and 2 acres of land. The centre started functioning in the month of November, 1959 in a rent-free building. The present building has been constructed at a total cost of Rs. 25,163. The unique feature of the primary health centre is that it is fully electrified and provided with water tap system with an overhead tank and the flush out system. The bed strength of the hospital is six out of which three are allotted for maternity section. For the construction of T.B. Ward, as an extension wing of the primary health centre, the people of Palem donated one acre of land and Rs. 2,000.

The important feature of the Primary Health Centre is the Family Planning Wing. The maternity health visitor with the assistance of the Mukhya Sevika of the Panchayat Samiti is attending to the family planning work through individual contacts, house visits and public meetings. The use of contraceptives has also helped in child spacing and birth control.

With the health centre the construction of a primary school was undertaken in 1959. For this the people contributed two acres of land and Rs. 6,800. The school was upgraded as a Secondary School in 1959-60 and as a High School in 1961-62. At present it is a private High School obtaining a lump sum as teach-

A high school at Palem



Minor veterinary dispensary

ing grant from the Government. The Educational Committee of the Panchayat, however, bears an expenditure of Rs. 9,000 per annum towards the maintenance of the school.

The year 1959 also saw the construction of two wells—one for the school children and the other for harijans—at a cost of Rs. 1,800 and Rs. 800 respectively. A protected overhead tank with a capacity of 500 gallons and fitted with electric motor has been attached to the school well. This supplies water to the hospital, school and adjacent houses.

A Cosmopolitan Hostel providing accommodation to as many as 100 students belonging to backward class and scheduled castes has been established. The annual expenditure of the hostel comes to Rs. 22,000 of which Rs. 6,000 is given by the Social Service Department and the rest is borne by the people. The Educational Committee runs the hostel. In addition to it, the people also bore the entire cost of building a dining hall-*cum*-store room.

A minor Veterinary Dispensary, unique of its kind in the district, was inaugurated in 1962 for which Rs. 2,000 and three acres of land were contributed by the people.

FARMERS' UNION

A Farmers' Union has been formed in the village. This union has got a cash balance of Rs. 1,700. Due to the efforts of this union 460 acres are being brought under Japanese method of paddy cultivation every year. Moreover, 3,000 plants of Glyricidia have been grown. The union has succeeded in getting sanction of six subsidy wells and 15 electric motor pumps. In 1961 a godown for distribution of chemical fertilizers was established.

All these efforts have produced rich dividends. Palem stands first in the Block in using improved methods of cultivation. The average yield of paddy here is 2,400 lbs. per acre.

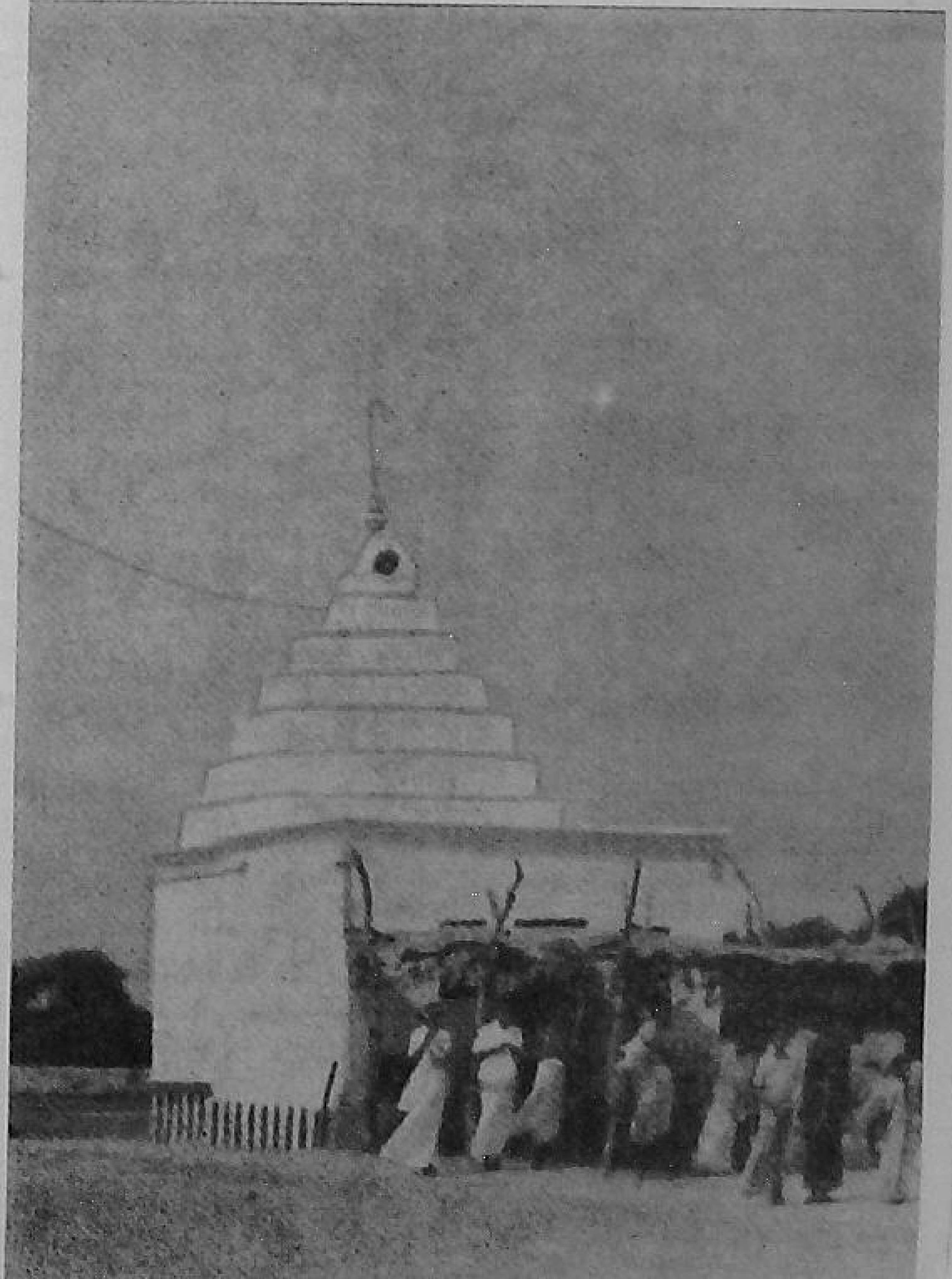
There is a Cooperative Credit Society functioning with a membership of 300. One Teli Industrial Cooperative Society with a membership of 16 and a share capital of Rs. 4,340 is also functioning. One Milk Supply Society is running successfully. Besides, there is a Housing Society with 68 members.

One poultry unit has been established at a cost of Rs. 1,200 the half of which has come from the donations of the villagers.

The village has a library and a community radio. It has been electrified. The Panchayat organises weekly bazar and weekly cattle fair which add to the income of the Panchayat.

In order to inculcate devotional feelings in the minds of the people Shri Venkateshwara's temple has been constructed at a cost of Rs. 15,000. Palem has now virtually turned into a centre of pilgrimage. A Temple Committee with 15 members has been constituted. One *'Dharma Satram'* has also been established. In the *jatra* of the temple organised in 1963 about 30,000 people had congregated.

The temple of Shri Venkateshwara



Shri Subramanyam

Today Shri Subramanyam is the happiest man at Palem. He has witnessed how his dreams have been realised one by one. If you meet him he will certainly entertain you and try his utmost to convince you that Palem is worth living with all the modern amenities it provides. But you do not require any persuasion as you can see for yourself that the village with its tidy look is just a 'tiny Eden' on earth. It is too difficult to resist the temptation of living at Palem, in villages like Palem.

Palem symbolises the hopes and aspirations of some thousands of our common people conscious of improving their standard of life by honest hard work.

UPPINA BETAGERI MARCHES AHEAD

THE VILLAGERS of Uppina Betageri of the Development Block of Dharwar in Mysore State have been working with courage and conviction to reach the goal of self-betterment through self-initiative and self-reliance. Full of enthusiasm and earnestness, they are transforming the entire village into one of peace, power and plenty. The 15-member Panchayat of this village is very active and is rendering remarkable service to the villagers.

This village has a population of 5,938, a cultivable area of 5,607 acres of which 88 acres are processed for irrigation and about 529 families are engaged in agriculture. Irrigation is being carried on with the help of 20 pump-sets.

Having realised the benefits and advantages of cooperation, the Panchayat and the villagers have established three Cooperative Societies—a large-scale Cooperative Society, a Weavers' Cooperative Society and a Gramodyog Cooperative Society. The large-scale Society, which has a membership of 394, advances loans and distributes improved seeds, manures, insecticides and improved agricultural implements. The Weavers' Cooperative Society has brought out fine varieties of cloth, including coating and dhoties.

The Gram Panchayat has contributed its share to the construction of a health centre. There are a High School, an Urdu School, a Veterinary Dispensary, a Dye Factory and an Ambar Charkha Centre. The villagers guided by Panchayat have contributed labour for the construction of the building of the Urdu School.

A youth club, has been conducting adult education classes and a reading room. The club has also been rendering service to the village community by carrying on social and cultural activities such as dramas, sports, excursions, planting of road-side trees and organising village volunteer force.

The Panchayat has kept the village clean and tidy and pays great attention to the maintenance of roads, drains and wells.

Even a casual visitor to this village can very well see the good and constructive work done by the village-folk here. Uppina Betageri provides a remarkable example of self-help and demonstrates how the people in the countryside can shape their own future by making the best use of the help and assistance extended by the Government and supplementing it by their own contributions and efforts.

ORISSA EXPERIMENT IN APPLIED NUTRITION

V. S. MATTHEWS

THERE is no doubt that the diet of average villagers in India is known to be imbalanced. The diet of a great majority of people is deficient both in quantity and quality. Malnutrition is widely prevalent and its bad effects persist throughout life. Such sections of the population remain vulnerable to all sorts of infection and pose a problem for the country. It is often claimed that our traditional lethargy and low production is partly due to inadequate nutrition.

These unsatisfactory features make it imperative to raise the level of nutrition throughout the country. This demands education and training leading to the production and consumption of nutritionally valuable food suitable to the socio-economic conditions in the rural areas of the country. The Applied Nutrition Programme in India is an effort on the part of the Government of India and the State Governments on the one hand and the United Nations Organisations of Food and Agriculture, World Health and UNICEF on the other to tackle the national problem of malnutrition in the rural areas through their combined resources.

Under the plan of action, the commitment of the UNICEF is to assist selected training institutions and Community Development blocks and production centres participating in the programme of poultry, fisheries, horticulture, rural milk production and dairying with equipment and supplies such as teaching material, laboratory and audio-visual equipment, transport facilities, preservation units. tools, etc.

MALNUTRITION IN ORISSA

The average diet in Orissa has appalling deficiencies. It has been responsible for high rate of mortality in children for various specific deficiency diseases in men and women, leading to inefficiency and low output.

A Pilot Project of extended nutrition programme was taken up in Orissa in 1959-60 to tackle the problem of under nutrition. A number of blocks are selected for introducing an intensive five year programme for training and demonstration in production of improved poultry and eggs, introduction of pisciculture in all suitable tanks, cultivation of vegetables and fruits in community school and Women's Club lands, growing of other nutritious cereals and foods. Training is imparted on the value of nutritious food, the importance of a balanced diet, the method of proper cooking and preservation of local foods. The programme also includes curative and preventive measures against disease, provision of clear drinking water and adoption of hygienic living habits.

The movement is built around Women's and Youth Clubs, Gram Panchayats and the village schools. Women's Clubs, and Youth Clubs are encouraged to rear poultry on scientific lines. There is now a deep-litter poultry unit in every participating Women's club. These clubs are required to feed 20 mothers and 50 children with a balanced diet twice a week and eggs from their poultry units form one of the items of the meal.

The women clubs are also encouraged to rear fish in the village tanks through the help of Youth Clubs under the guidance of Gram Panchayats. A part of the fish produced is also used for providing a balanced meal for expectant and lactating mothers and pre-school children. Every school is required to have an orchard of two acres. Assistance is given for seeds, pumps and agricultural implements. The gardens are required to produce nutritious vegetables, fruits and

Trainees of the Home Economic Centre at Bhubaneswar in Orissa weeding a kitchen garden

other crops. The school garden takes the role of demonstration centres both for the students and the villagers. The produce of the orchards is used for the mid-day meal of the children. The children are expected to carry their knowledge to their kitchen gardens.

The Mahila Samities, Women's Clubs and schools also arrange milk-feeding at least 6 days in a week. Training in nutrition is imparted to all levels of workers in the field organisations and also to non-official members of Women Clubs, Youth Clubs and Panchayat Organisations. Women workers, social education organisers are trained in special institutions.

IMPACT OF THE PROGRAMME

A recent assessment of the impact of the programme, made on the basis of data collected by field surveys, reveals heartening results. Before the poultry programme was started in 1959-60, there was only one bird in every 4 families. Now every family has two birds. One in every eight birds is of the improved variety of RIR or White Leg Horn. It has also been found that the lower income groups rear local breed in larger numbers and the higher income group introduce improved varieties. It was generally thought that the improved birds could not stand the climate and that it would be difficult to breed them. Statistics, however, do not confirm this fear. The survey proved that there was a keen desire to rear birds of the improved breeds in villages, but there were difficulties of high cost of rearing and premixed feeds. The deep-litter system is proving uneconomical in the villages and some other method has to be discovered.

Before the programme started the average consumption per capita was about one egg every 3 weeks. At the time of the survey, the consumption had increased to one egg per week. The consumption of eggs increased significantly wherever the families were rearing their own birds. The attitude of respondents to poultry farming and consumption of eggs was very favourable. The setting up of poultry sub-units by Women's and Youth clubs, the provision of free hatching facilities and extension of poultry services paid rich dividends and the results justify an intensive and extensive drive for stepping up poultry farming in rural areas by encouraging simple and economic poultry units.

KITCHEN GARDEN

The kitchen garden programme resulted in 715 families out of 1,090 taking to kitchen gardens. The production of vegetables per capita per week before introduction of the programme was very low. At the time of survey it had increased five times. The consumption of vegetables per week also increased four times.

Only 96 families had pisciculture tanks. It is not possible for everyone to have tanks. Efforts were made to assist the Gram Panchayats to renovate suitable tanks and to supply suitable fingerlings for stocking. Several hundred tanks were taken up for fish rearing and within a space of 4 years the production was doubled.

Fishing from a panchayat tank in Orissa

A very significant finding of the survey was that wherever women showed active interest and were able to enlist the support of the Panchayati Raj bodies, the production and consumption of vegetables, fruits, eggs and fish were twice as much as in other areas. Our future plans, therefore, must endeavour to harness this immense potential of women in our villages.

LEVEL OF CONSUMPTION

The level of consumption, however, has not yet come up to the composition of a balanced diet recommended by the Indian Council of Medical Research. The consumption of pulses is still less than half. The consumption of vegetables, fruits, milk and milk products, fish and meat and eggs is about one-third of the prescribed standards in the sample villages and it is much less in villages where no programme has been launched.

In addition to the general under nourishment specific deficiency diseases closely related to the monotonous consumption of relatively large quantities of single staple cereals are found. The eradication of these conditions call for removal of causative or contributary factors. These are inadequacy of food supplies particularly protein and protective foods, lack of facilities for storing, processing and transporting food, poverty and poor purchasing power, ignorance of nutritional matters, religious prohibitions and unjust social systems. These problems have to be approached in several ways and from several points. The problems are a challenge to administrators, nutritionists, educators and social scientists.

The national agricultural policies must take care of the demands for nutritive and protective foods. The regional plans, based on local skills and conditions for increased production of food of high nutritive value appear to be inescapable. Similarly a drive for a wiser use of available food stuffs cannot be overlooked. Efforts on improvements in the levels of consumption and food habits of the people will have to continue over a long period. All this requires a persistent and prolonged national effort on several points. The Applied Nutrition Programme may be considered to be one of the pilot projects which seeks to emphasize the problems and offers a spearhead for the ushering of bigger and more comprehensive programmes. The Orissa report makes it clear that the Applied Nutrition Programme has brought about a better understanding among the villagers of the problem of nutrition and has induced and helped people to grow more vegetables and fruits, and rear more poultry and fish.

FROM HERE AND THERE

HER LAST VOTE

It looked that even Death had to wait for two hours on the polling day before it could lay its claim on a 90-year old woman of Padasali village in the Rajasamand Panchayat in Udaipur district of Rajasthan.

She was adamant not to surrender to the claws of death till she was brought to the polling booth on a cot by her grandsons. The last act of her life was to cast her vote. After this, the polling booth was deserted as all the villagers went away to attend the funeral.

CANDIDATE VICTIM OF 'PURDAH'

A Rajput candidate supported by Muslims, contesting for the Sarpanchship of Kharda Bharatsing village in Barmer district of Rajasthan, lost due to the 'purdah' system.

As the day of polling drew nearer the Muslim supporters of the Rajput suggested that maximum number of women voters be sent out to cast their votes but being a strict follower of 'purdah', the Rajput could not agree to this.

On the polling day, when Muslims did not see Rajput women coming out to cast their votes they also did not allow women voters of their community to give up 'purdah' and go out to vote.

On the other hand, women voters supporting the other party belonging to the Jat group turned out in large numbers to vote for their candidate.

The result was that the Jat candidate won.

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225 COOPERATIVES FORMED BY SCHEDULED TRIBES IN RAJASTHAN

Cooperative movement is making headway among the Scheduled Tribes in Rajasthan. During 1964 as many as 225 cooperative societies of various types were formed with a share capital of Rs. 2,43,288. Some of them are multipurpose, labour contract, forest, agriculture and service cooperatives.

Steps are also being taken for the economic and special uplift of the scheduled castes in the State. During the current financial year, a sum of Rs. 13,21,570 has been spent on various schemes for the advancement of these communities. A sum of Rs. 3 lakhs has also been spent on the construction of irrigation tanks and dams.

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AYURVEDIC RURAL DISPENSARIES IN UTTAR PRADESH

THE GOVERNMENT of Uttar Pradesh have sanctioned six four-bedded rural Ayurvedic dispensaries at Berni (Tahsil Bilari, Moradabad); Mustafabad (Tahsil Saar, Mathura); Jyoti Jagir (Bareilly); Koshi Khidmatpur (Tahsil Amroha, Moradabad); Bhaipur Brahmanan (Bulandshahr); and Jarha (Mirzapur).

The Government have also sanctioned temporary posts of the Vaidya, one Compounder and two servants for each dispensary.

SUBSIDY TO SCHEDULED CASTES FOR POULTRY DEVELOPMENT

THE MEMBERS of the Scheduled Castes belonging to 11 districts in Uttar Pradesh would receive grant from the State Government for taking up poultry development. Recently the State Government sanctioned Rs. 1.50 lakhs for this purpose.

The districts to be benefited are Hamirpur, Etawah, Deoria, Jaunpur, Ghazipur, Azamgarh, Lucknow, Basti, Mirzapur, Kanpur and Naini Tal.

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EXPERIMENTAL FISH FARM AT CHINHAT

AN EXPERIMENTAL fish farm is being set up at Kathotal Tal at Chinhat in Lucknow district of Uttar Pradesh. The project will cost Rs. 2 lakhs. The site for the farm has already been acquired through private negotiations with the Gram Samaj.

This farm, when ready will serve as a training centre for the Inservice Training Course being run at Chinhat. Induced breeding scheme will also be extended there for conducting experiments on breeding of Mirror Carps.

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RURAL INDUSTRIALISATION IN BUNDELKHAND

AN ACCELERATED programme of industrialising the entire rural area within a period of 10 to 12 years is being implemented in the Bundelkhand Division in Uttar Pradesh in phases. The programme aims at establishing at least one industrial unit in each village within the stipulated period.

In the last financial year, it was planned to set up four units in each of the 47 blocks of the four districts of Jhansi, Hamirpur, Banda and Jalaun. Against this target of 188 units, the Division was able to organise 251 units in that year.

* * * *

FREE EDUCATION FOR GIRLS UPTO HIGH SCHOOL

GIRLS' EDUCATION in Uttar Pradesh has been made free up to class X from January 1, this year.

This decision of the State Government, besides giving fillip to girls' education, will for the present benefit about 1,75,000 girl students of as many as 943 middle and high schools in the State.

The State Government have already issued instructions to the managements of all institutions in the State not to realise tution fees from girls reading in classes VII to X from the month of January 1965.

Free education is already being imparted to students, both boys and girls, reading up to class VI in the State.

* * * *

TRAINING CAMP FOR FARMERS

A TWO-DAY training camp for farmers was recently organised at Mahakalguri in Jalpaiguri district of West Bengal with a view to making an all-out effort for intensive food cultivation. The camp was sponsored by the Alipurduar II Community Development Block. About 50 farmers joined the camp.

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MODEL VILLAGE IN NEFA

A MODEL village would soon be set up in North-East Frontier Agency. The scheme includes provision for better internal communications, better educational facilities, improved arrangements for sanitation, diversification and improvement of agriculture and improved housing pattern.

It has been decided that the model village, the first of its kind in NEFA, would be set up at Jinning, 7 miles from Along, the headquarters of the Siang Frontier Division.

Galongs, the inhabitants of the village, have shown great enthusiasm and have assured the authorities of their fullest cooperation in executing the various schemes.

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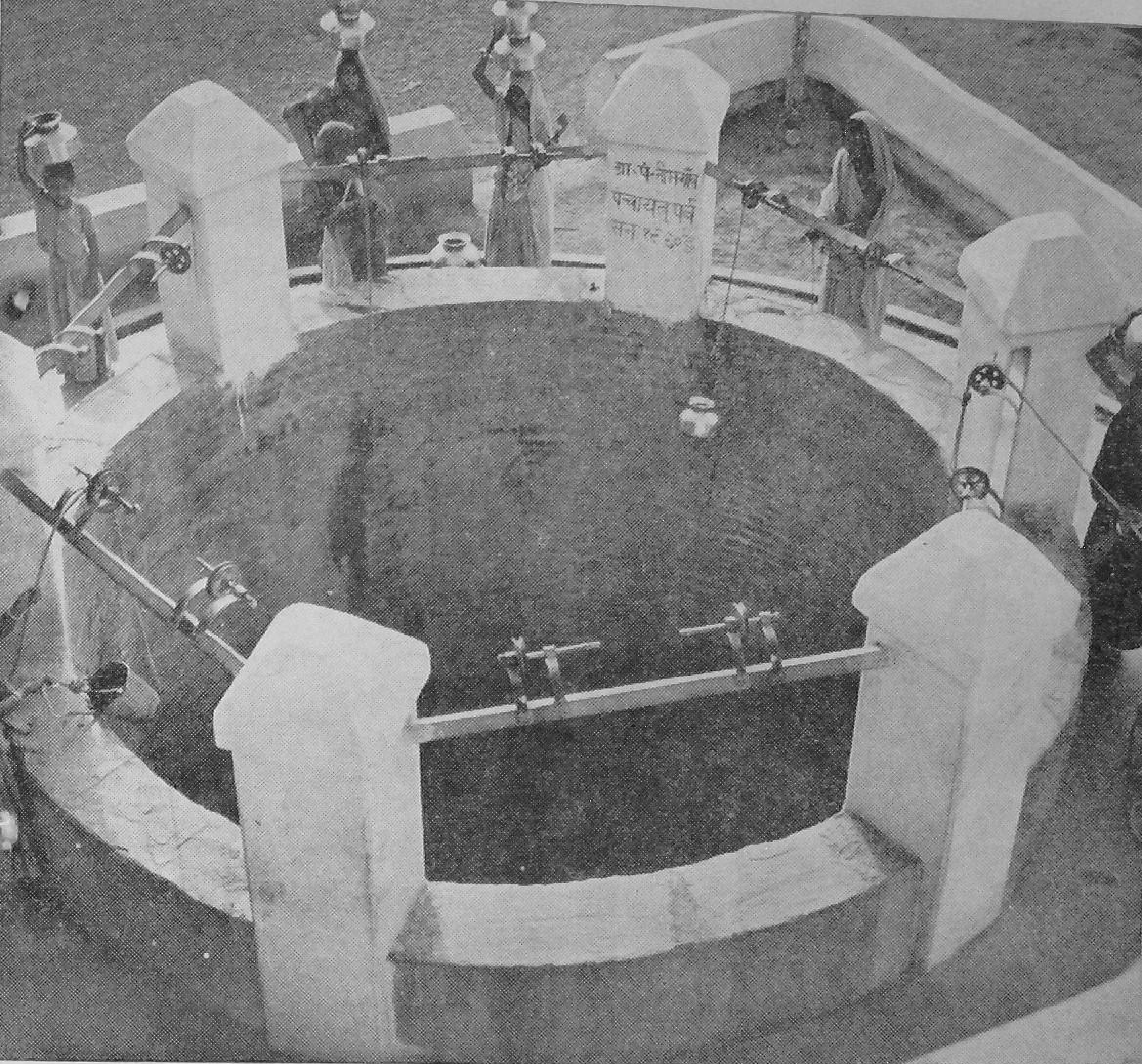

TOWARDS A BETTER TOMORROW

Water is vital for life. The necessary arrangements to keep it free from pollution were not made due to various factors in most of the villages in our country. The result was disease and untimely death. After independence the Government gave priority to rural water supply in our national plans. Rural water supply schemes have been taken up under the programmes for community development, local development works and welfare of the economically backward classes. These are supplemented by the national water supply and sanitation programme which deals with the provision of water supply to group of villages through works requiring a measure of technical skill in design and construction.

The masonry ring of this new well in a Hoshangabad village blazes white in the morning light, symbolical of the protective ring that is being erected around thousands of Indian hamlets by the dedicated effort of the nation.

A bumper crop. Two peasants in Orissa are seen winnowing paddy.

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